

**Resource Priority:**    Grazingland: \_\_\_\_    Animal Waste: \_\_\_\_

**Western Conservation District EQIP 2004**

**Environmental Ranking Criteria**

Points can only be earned when there is an environmental concern to be addressed by the implementation of a Conservation Management System. If the applicant is already doing the conservation practice that eliminates an environmental concern, then points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily reduced.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FSN \_\_\_\_\_ TRACT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental ranking criteria points

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Develop sources of drinking water for livestock in order to reduce excessive erosion or animal waste related problems to improve surface water quality. **30 points.**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings for livestock or equipment. **10 points.**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Management of appropriate soil amendments by establishing a nutrient management plan on grazingland. A current soil test is required. Application rate of the nutrients must follow the nutrient management plan. **A percentage of 30 points that is equal to the percentage of the area in the treated fields that is utilized in the contract. Example: Farmer has 40 ac. of pasture. Farmer agrees to treat 20 acres. Farmer receives 15 points. The number of acres that anyone can receive cost sharing for soil amendments on, under any one contract, will be capped at 25% of eligible grazing land, or 40 acres, whichever is greater.**
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. **A percentage of 20 points that is equal to the percentage of the total grazed woodland on the tract that is excluded from livestock grazing with this proposal.**
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocating an established concentrated winter feeding area (Standard Code 757 Animal Use Area Protection. Utilization plan required.) **30 points.**  
  
A) Additional **5 points** can be awarded for dividing a herd and establishing a second concentrated winter feeding area.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce surface water quality problems by constructing a waste storage facility. (Refer to definition of animal waste facility in Technical Guide, Section IV). **20 points for non- dairy operations, 50 points for dairy operations.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sub-total**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, improve animal health, by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan. Farmer must be given management worksheet so they understand the requirements of this practice.

\_\_\_\_\_ **10** for managed continuous grazing (Days of grazing cycle  $\geq$  9 days)

\_\_\_\_\_ **15** for rotational grazing, (Days of grazing cycle 5-8 days)

\_\_\_\_\_ **20** for management intensive grazing, (Days of grazing cycle 1-4 days)

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Improve surface water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area. (between water resource and cropland, pastureland, or feedlot.) **10 points.**

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce erosion by stabilizing severely eroded critical area. **10 points.**

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce excessive erosion from Class 7 grassland or critically eroding areas by a land use conversion to forestland. **10 points.**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ To supplement cool season grassland pasture during summer months or enhance wildlife habitat, warm season grasses will be established. **5 points.**

12. \_\_\_\_\_ Improve pastures that are primarily Fescue to establish a higher quality forage and enhance wildlife habitat in pastureland (inter- seeding legumes by frost- seeding or no- till methods). **10 points.**

13. \_\_\_\_\_ Extend grazing past November 15 to reduce confinement periods and keep livestock in pasture longer. **10 points.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Points      Maximum points 260